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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/822,101	04/08/2004	Agostino Tucciarone	AT-11	1706

21394 7590 11/16/2005
ARTHROCARE CORPORATION
680 VAQUEROS AVENUE
SUNNYVALE, CA 94085-3523

EXAMINER

HOFFMAN, MARY C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3733

DATE MAILED: 11/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/822,101	TUCCiarONE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mary Hoffman	3733	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-14 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 April 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☒ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Group II (claims 15 –18) in the reply filed on 11/01/05 is acknowledged.

Claims 1-14 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 11/01/05.

Priority

Regarding the claims for priority, the transmittal letter filed on 4/08/2004 states that current application 10/822101 is a continuation of prior application PCT/GB03/01606. Also filed on date 4/08/2004, the application data sheet states that applicant intends to claim foreign priority under 35 USC 119 to prior application PCT/GB03/01606. In the application data sheet filed 6/07/2004, applicant restates his intention to claim foreign priority to prior application PCT/GB03/01606, also including a claim to foreign priority to prior British patent application GB 0208667.6.

It is unclear from what is applicants' intention, whether it is to file a continuation from PCT/GB03/01606 as stated on the transmittal letter filed on 4/08/2004, or whether it is to claim foreign priority to prior application PCT/GB03/01606 and prior British patent application GB 0208667.6.

It is noted for examination purposes, the current application will be treated as claiming foreign priority to prior application PCT/GB03/01606 and prior British patent application GB 0208667.6.

It is also noted, however, that applicant has not filed certified copies of the prior applications as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b). A claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) cannot be based on British application GB 0208667.6, since the United States application was filed more than twelve months thereafter.

Oath/Declaration

The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because:

It does not identify the foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate on which priority is claimed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.55, and any foreign application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed, by specifying the application number, country, day, month and year of its filing.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: ref. # 16. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it contains legal phraseology and is in claim format, e.g. "comprising" and "thereof". Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract

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on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Claim Objections

Claim 15 is objected to because of the following informalities:

In line 5, "said intersection" should be changed to "an intersection where the transverse tunnel intersects the femoral tunnel" or the like. The term "said" refers back to a specific intersection. Therefore, since it is the first time the term "intersection" is being used in the claim, "said" should be changed to "an".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wolf et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,601,562).

Wolf et al. disclose a method of ACL graft ligament fixation comprising the steps of forming a femoral tunnel; forming a transverse tunnel intersecting the femoral tunnel; locating a graft loop in the femoral tunnel in such a manner that an open face of the loop faces said intersection; and passing at least a part of a head section of a transverse

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suspension device (ref. # 4) through the graft loop via the transverse tunnel until the head contacts an opposite wall of the femoral tunnel (see FIG. 1). After location of the graft loop in the femoral tunnel, a guide wire (ref. #30) is advanced there under from the transverse tunnel using a suitable viewing device (see FIG. 2 and 2A). It is inherent to use a suitable viewing device such as an arthroscope, since a method of arthroscopic surgery is disclosed (col. 6, line 61). The transverse suspension device is passed along the guide wire after the guide wire is advanced under the graft loop (see FIG. 6). The head of the device is advanced as far as a distal head of a recess formed in the opposite wall of the femoral tunnel (see FIG. 1).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See attached Form PTO-892.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mary Hoffman whose telephone number is 571-272-5566. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo C. Robert can be reached on 571-272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MCH



EDUARDO C. ROBERT
PRIMARY EXAMINER